

MINUTES OF MEETING OF COMMISSION OF FINE ARTS

HELD IN WASHINGTON, NOVEMBER 7, 1930.

The sixth meeting of the Commission of Fine Arts during the fiscal year 1931 was held in its office in the Interior Department Building on Friday, November 7, 1930. The following members were present:

Mr. Moore, Chairman,
Mr. Morris,
Mr. Winter,
Mr. Vitale,
Mr. Weinman,
Mr. Mauran,
and Mr. H. P. Caemmerer,

Executive Secretary and Administrative Officer.

There was also present during the day Mr. William Mitchell Kendall, representing McKim, Mead and White, architects of the Arlington Memorial Bridge.

Mr. Mauran was welcomed as a member of the Commission of Fine Arts, having been appointed by President Hoover and having taken the oath of office, October 22, 1930.

The meeting was called to order at 9:30 a. m.

1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PRECEDING MEETING: The minutes of the meeting held in Washington, October 16, 1930, were approved.
2. SCULPTURE FOR THE ARLINGTON MEMORIAL BRIDGE: Mr. Kendall submitted small scale models prepared by Mr. Leo Friedlander for the sculpture groups at the District of Columbia end of the Arlington Memorial Bridge at the Lincoln Memorial. The Commission inspected them, and they were given particular attention by Mr. Weinman. The figures were symbolic of war, carrying out the design which Mr. Friedlander had submitted at a former meeting of the Commission. The Commission felt that the figures should be made somewhat lighter. The space under-

neath the horse was shown to be solid, and the Commission felt it would improve the appearance of the model to have at least one or two openings. Mr. Kendall said he would bring this to the attention of Mr. Friedlander. In general the Commission approved the models.

Also Mr. Fraser presented personally sketches he had made for his groups of sculpture at the entrance to Rock Creek and Potomac Parkway, symbolic of peace and the arts of peace. Mr. Fraser said he had made a clay model of one of the figures about three feet high and his desire is to have this submitted at the office of McKim, Mead and White where they have the plans for the Arlington Memorial Bridge so that the Commission could consider the models in their relation to the bridge.

The Commission regarded both the models submitted by Mr. Friedlander and the sketches submitted by Mr. Fraser quite satisfactory. The Commission felt they gave indication of imposing groups of sculpture for the intended location of each of them. The Commission suggested a meeting in New York City early in December for further consideration of the sketches and models.

It was understood that the small scale models submitted by Mr. Friedlander and those that will be submitted by Mr. Fraser will become part of the contract for their work in sculpture for the Arlington Memorial Bridge. A report was sent to Colonel Grant. (Exhibit A)

3. SAMUEL GOMPERS AND AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR MEMORIAL: The Secretary stated that in accordance with a request from Mr. Frank Morrison, Secretary of the American Federation of Labor, that the Commission inspect the model by Robert Aitken for the Samuel Gompers and American Federation of Labor Memorial, the matter was brought to the attention of Mr. Weinman, who arranged for an inspection of the model and reported as follows:

October 31, 1930.

Dear Mr. Moore:

"Yesterday Mr. Morris, Mr. Vitale and Mr. Winter and I called at the studio of Mr. Aitken to inspect the sketch model for the Gompers Memorial. The committee have expressed themselves as well pleased with the general arrangement of the allegorical group and portrait statue of Mr. Gompers as well as with the placing of the monument upon the proposed site. Several suggestions for minor changes were made by this committee, which Mr. Aitken has promised to take into consideration both in this sketch model and in the working model. The committee recommends approval of the general design by the Commission."

Cordially yours,
(Signed) A. A. Weinman.

A letter was received from Mr. Morrison advising that the Council of the American Federation of Labor had approved the design of the model (Exhibit B).

The Secretary presented photographs of the model which he had requested of Mr. Aitken. These were inspected. Mr. Weinman noted in particular that Mr. Aitken had changed the model to carry out the suggestions made to him that in order to be more distinctive the figure of Samuel Gompers be separated somewhat from the allegorical figures in the background. The Commission were much pleased with the model and approved it.

As to the material to be used, Mr. Kendall was of the opinion that the entire monument should be executed in Georgia pink marble as was contemplated by Mr. Aitken. Mr. Morris felt as Mr. Kendall did about this matter. Mr. Weinman, however, said that to use the same sort of material in the monument throughout did not make the figure of Samuel Gompers sufficiently distinctive. He recommended strongly that the figure of Samuel Gompers be executed in bronze with dark green granite for the pedestal as far as the base and sub-base. Mr. Weinman cited instances in New York City where monuments have been executed entirely in stone that are now much mutilated, as for instance, the Columbus Monument. The

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Secretary submitted a sample of the dark green granite which was used recently for the pedestal of the bronze figure of Tecumseh erected in front of Bancroft Hall at the Naval Academy. After further consideration the Commission decided that the figure of Samuel Gompers should be in bronze and the rest of the monument in Georgia pink marble, excepting the pedestal of the Gompers figure and the base and sub-base, which will be in green granite. The question of material is to be finally decided when Mr. Aitken submits his working model.

As for the planting plan, Mr. Weinman said both sides of the monument are being treated by Mr. Aitken so that the planting at the rear would have to be low. The Commission decided that when Mr. Aitken submits his working model he also present a landscape plan, showing the monument in its relation to the triangle at Massachusetts Avenue and 10th Street, N. W., where it is to be located--a block from the Federation of Labor Building at 9th and Massachusetts Avenue. Mr. Vitale said his office would help Mr. Aitken in the preparation of the landscape plan. A report was sent to Mr. Morrison. (Exhibit C)

4. **GEORGE WASHINGTON BICENTENNIAL MEDAL:** The Secretary reported that Mr. Aitken, Mr. Jennewein, Mr. MacNeil, and Mrs. Fraser are at work on their designs for the George Washington Bicentennial Medal, and the question before the Commission is the selection of a fifth medallist to take the place of Mr. Manship who has found it impossible to enter the competition because of absence from this country. Mr. Morris said he would like to have Mr. Gregory designated as one of the competitors as he had not seen any of his work in connection with projects that have been before the Commission. Mr. Morris was informed that Mr. Gregory had been invited on several occasions to participate in competitions but had refused, saying he was too much occupied with other work or felt that the subject was not one which he cared to compete for.

Mr. Weinman was asked for his opinion in the matter, and he said that while he had been considering an additional medallist to take part in this competition, he felt that the four medallists now competing would be sufficient, that their time for submitting sketches expires January 1, and the fifth medallist might complain of insufficient time for completing his sketch. Mr. Moore said if a fifth medallist is selected, the matter would have to be submitted to the Committee on the Medal of the George Washington Bicentennial Commission.

The Commission of Fine Arts thereupon agreed to limit the competition for the George Washington Bicentennial Medal to the four medallists above mentioned.

5. SECOND DIVISION MEMORIAL: The Secretary stated that in response to the letter sent to them on October 18, Mr. Sanford, Mr. Keck, and Mr. Fraser had replied in regard to the resubmission of their designs or models for the Second Division Memorial (Exhibit D), and that he had sent copies of the letters to Mr. Weinman for his recommendation in the matter. Mr. Sanford recommended a separate jury; Mr. Fraser was opposed to a separate jury; and Mr. Keck was in favor of a separate jury but at the same time not opposed to having the Commission of Fine Arts judge the designs. The Secretary read these letters for the information of the members of the Commission.

The Commission then carefully considered the question of having a separate jury judge the competition, and it was pointed out that if a separate jury is designated, it would have to be furnished a program of competition. Attention was called to the memorandum submitted by Mr. Morris, as a result of his conference with General Harbord, at the meeting of the Commission of Fine Arts on October 2, 1930, which is as follows:

"I saw General Harbord and discussed with him the situation with respect to the Second Division Memorial.

"General Harbord said that in the event that Mr. Fraser would agree to the cancellation of the contract between him and the Second Division in a letter which is satisfactory to General Harbord, and with the understanding that there will be no payment to be made to Mr. Fraser for the work he has already done, that General Harbord would arrange with the Committee of the Second Division to agree to the cancellation of the contract and, further, would agree that Messrs. Fraser, Keck and Sanford be invited to submit either the sketches which they have already prepared, modifications thereof, or entirely new sketches, for judgment by a Committee, said Committee to be the result either of a choice made by the three sculptors or by the Arts Commission; the judgment so arrived at to be submitted with a recommendation to the Committee of the Second Division, which, however, shall retain full right and power to make the final selection and award of contract."

Mr. Morris thereupon said that since the three competitors had not come to an agreement as to the appointment of a separate jury as was expected according to the memorandum, he felt the Commission of Fine Arts could very properly act as the jury in the matter. The Commission decided accordingly.

The Secretary was requested to take up the matter with Mr. Keck, who is to be given all the time that he needs (as also Mr. Sanford and Mr. Fraser) for completing his model, but as he says he can complete it by December 1, a meeting of the Commission of Fine Arts will be held in New York City early in December. Such scale for the model as may be acceptable to Mr. Keck will also be acceptable to the Commission. The Secretary reported that the drawings of Mr. Sanford have been received and it is understood that Mr. Fraser's design is available for resubmission at that time.

6. NAVY AND MARINE MEMORIAL: Mr. Harvey Wiley Corbett, Architect, of New York City, in company with Mr. Ernesto Bagni del Piatta, Sculptor, appeared before the Commission to consider the question of location of the Navy and Marine

Memorial. Lieut. F. B. Butler, Assistant Director of the Office of Public Buildings and Public Parks, was also present. Mr. Corbett said that the site heretofore designated for the Navy and Marine Memorial on the Potomac River side of East Potomac Park at the point of the proposed entrance of the canal was not considered suitable by the Association and that since then they have selected a site at the southeast end of Columbia Island where the memorial would have a water background and would be on somewhat elevated ground so that it would be silhouetted against the sky. The location is adjacent to the Mount Vernon Highway, from which the memorial could be seen. Lieut. Butler said that the Office of Public Buildings and Public Parks endorses this proposed site on Columbia Island. The Commission considered the new location. It was noted from the sketch that the southeast end of Columbia Island would be pointed whereas it appears rounded on the map. Lieut. Butler and Mr. Corbett said this could be changed without difficulty. The Commission thereupon approved the proposed new site for the Navy and Marine Memorial at the southeast end of Columbia Island. (Exhibit E)

As for the canal through East Potomac Park to connect the Potomac River with the Washington Channel, Lieut. Butler said he did not think that there is much prospect for carrying out this feature of the plan of East Potomac Park since the canal would interfere with the existing golf course. The Commission, however, strongly urged the canal at this location in view of the fact that when the waterfront plan of the Washington Channel is carried out, boating in this part of the city will increase greatly, and as it is, there are many launches anchored at the head of the Washington Channel. So far as the golf course is concerned, others could be developed in new parks, such as the Anacostia, which is being completed.

7. UNITED MASONIC TEMPLE - DEAN TRACT: Under date of November 3, 1930, the following letter was received from Mr. Harvey Wiley Corbett, Architect, with which he submitted a design for the location of the United Masonic Temple on the Dean Tract at Florida Avenue and Connecticut Avenue, together with a photograph of the revised design of the building:

Dear Mr. Moore:

"Under a special act approved on April 29, 1930 (Public 175, 71st Congress) a special permit for excess height over a limited area of the Dean Tract was granted to the United Masonic Temple, the layout of the grounds and the designs of the buildings being subject to approval by the National Capital Park and Planning Commission and the Commission of Fine Arts.

"I presented drawings to the Park and Planning Commission and in their consideration of the matter they stated that they 'believed a suitable and appropriate development might have been possible within the limitations of the existing regulations.' Following their suggestion I revised the plans, keeping all the buildings within these existing regulations.

"I presented these plans to my building committee and received unanimous approval for the development along these lines and their willingness to present the revised plan arrangement to the Grand Lodge at its next meeting for definite approval.

"In a letter from the Park and Planning Commission they stated that they would not feel called upon to interfere in any way with a project which did not take advantage of the special act above referred to but which came entirely within the existing regulations and law, provided a definite commitment were given in advance that no effort would later be made to take advantage of the special privilege granted by the Act. I am wondering if the Commission of Fine Arts feels the same way and if I could have a letter from them so stating.

"While it is true that not taking advantage of the Act restores us to the status of a private owner developing a building project under the existing regulations, I personally feel that I would be glad, because of the monumental and I trust impressive character of the development, to have continued criticism and advice from the Commission of Fine Arts.

"I am personally hoping that the surrounding grounds of the Dean Tract (you will note from the enclosed photograph and plan the relation

of the Masonic Group to the entire property) may become a public park. It seems to me that such comparatively small areas, the centers which are rapidly developing into concentrated commercial and housing uses, need such breathing spaces and will be glad in the future to have them provided for them. You understand how much we in New York suffer from lack of such foresight. Property of this character could have been obtained not many years ago at a very reasonable figure.

"You know that the Masonic Fraternity has offered all of the triangle south of the north line of T Street to the City of Washington at the actual price that they paid for it some ten years ago. I am hoping that they will also offer the remaining portions of the tract which they themselves will not use and that the character of the development as indicated will be such as to justify its location as the central feature of a not only imposing but necessary park. It so happens that the location of the buildings as indicated requires the minimum destruction of the very beautiful trees now located on the Dean Tract. For park purposes these trees are a very valuable asset.

I would greatly appreciate a few minutes consideration of this entire matter by the Commission when I appear before them next Friday on the subject of the location of the Navy and Marine Memorial."

Faithfully yours,
(Signed) Harvey Wiley Corbett.

Mr. Corbett appeared before the Commission to consider the matter and called attention to the plot plan showing the lay-out of the building. He also called attention to the photograph which represented the building as resembling a Greek temple with pediment, with a monumental approach to it. This main part of the building is to be 90 feet high, Mr. Corbett said, which thereby keeps it within the zoning regulations of the city and does not take advantage of the Act of Congress on the subject (Exhibit F), allowing them to build the main portion of their structure to a height not to exceed 180 feet. The main building would be about 300 feet from Connecticut Avenue and 150 feet from 19th Street. Mr. Corbett said the Masonic Order was anxious to sell part of the Dean Tract to the Government for park purposes for the amount it cost them. Colonel Grant was asked for his views on the subject and he replied that the

National Capital Park and Planning Commission has no funds with which to buy the property since it was not estimated for in the \$16,000,000 authorized by Congress for additional park lands for the District of Columbia. The amount necessary to purchase the part of the Dean Tract offered by the Masonic Order, in particular that portion adjacent to Connecticut and Florida Avenues covering four or five acres, would require fully \$1,000,000. Col. Grant said the District Commissioners are opposed to the purchase of this portion of the tract at that price since they feel it would be using taxpayers' money to furnish a front yard for private owners. Col. Grant said the National Capital Park and Planning Commission has in view another location for a park in that vicinity which can be secured for three-fourths of the cost of the land in question.

Mr. Corbett was thereupon asked whether Masonic Order still has in mind the building of apartment houses. Mr. David Lynn, Architect of the Capitol and a member of the Masonic Order, said that it is necessary for the Masons to build apartment houses if the Government is not going to buy part of the tract as they have been paying enormous taxes for years on the property, and this is a great burden on the Masonic Order.

It was agreed that in view of the fact that the Masonic Order is keeping within the zoning regulations in the construction of their building as revised, there seems to be nothing which could prevent them from doing so, as this makes the project a private one.

Mr. Moore felt it would be desirable at this time to consider the widening of Florida Avenue on the south side of the Dean Tract, which is necessary and should be done at the earliest opportunity.

Mr. Corbett thereupon asked if the Commission of Fine Arts would send him a letter along the lines of the one by the National Capital Park and Planning Commission as mentioned in his letter. The Commission decided to do this. (Exhibit G)

8. RELOCATION OF THE GENERAL RAWLINS STATUE: Lieut. Col. U. S. Grant 3d, Director of Public Buildings and Public Parks, submitted a design suggesting the relocation of the statue of General Rawlins, Chief of Staff under General Grant, from its present location at Pennsylvania Avenue and Seventh Street to Rawlins Square at 18th Street and New York Avenue, N. W., immediately south of the Interior Department Building. Mr. Moore said the statue was originally placed in Rawlins Square but the C. A. R. did not think that site prominent enough, and it was, therefore, moved to its present location on Pennsylvania Avenue. The triangle development, however, makes it necessary to remove the statue at this time to another location.

The Commission considered the plan of Rawlins Square submitted. The monument sites suggested were at the east and west ends of the square; Mr. Weinman suggested a site near the steps leading into the square from E Street. Upon inspection of the site it was thought that the location proposed between E Street and the center of the square is rather crowded, and it was, therefore, decided to give the matter further consideration at the next meeting. The Commission concurred in the recommendation of Mr. Weinman that the pedestal be redesigned when the statue is placed at its new site. (Exhibit H)

9. PLAN FOR LEVEE IN POTOMAC PARK: Col. Grant submitted a plan for a levee or flood control wall to be built alongside the temporary War and Navy Buildings on B Street, which will protect the building in the case of a great

flood that is expected in the spring after the long drought that has prevailed in Washington and its vicinity for these past months. The matter was brought to the attention of Mr. Vitale, who made an inspection of the proposed project and did not favor it but under the circumstances recommended that the levee be built on the south side of B Street or better still that the ground adjacent to the Munitions Building be filled in so as to make the levee unnecessary (Exhibit I). This levee is to range from one foot to nine feet in height.

10. ROCK CREEK PARKWAY BRIDGE TOWER: Col. Grant submitted to the Commission of Fine Arts a plan which involves the erection of a tower on a bridge, this tower being necessary for use by the guards. The Commission did not particularly favor the tower on the bridge but in view of the fact that it is necessary for park protection, they interposed no objection to its erection, recommending, however, that the buttresses be omitted. (Exhibit J)

11. STATE DEPARTMENT BUILDING: Mr. Mauran asked about the design for the State Department Building, and a print of the plan which had been prepared by Mr. Waddy Wood was shown to him. Mr. Mauran after inspecting it said that in his opinion it did not make the State Department Building look so well as the Treasury Department Building and that Mr. Wood's design lacks the elegance of the Treasury Department Building. Mr. Mauran was informed that the architect at two of the recent meetings of the Commission had brought to his attention by the architect members this fact, and that Mr. Wood is now giving the design further study. Also at the request of the Secretary of the Treasury and the Commission, he is preparing a model of the south side of the State Department Building. The Secretary reported that he had been informed by Treasury Department officials that this model is being made in New York City and is to be com-

pleted by November 20, whereupon it is to be submitted to the Commission of Fine Arts.

12. EXHIBITION FOR THE CHICAGO EXPOSITION: Under date of October 18, 1930, the following letter was received from the Department of State, asking that the Commission of Fine Arts participate in the Chicago Exposition:

Fine Arts Commission,
Washington, D. C.

Sirs:

"A Committee, composed of the Assistant Secretary of Agriculture, the Honorable R. W. Dunlap, the Assistant Secretary of Commerce, the Honorable Julius Klein, and myself, appointed by the President in accordance with Public Resolution No. 92 - 71st Congress, is preparing recommendations to the President regarding the proposed participation of this Government in the Chicago World's Fair of 1933. A booklet explaining the general plan and scope of this exposition is enclosed.

"The President's Committee believes that the Government of the United States should take part in this exposition. After a preliminary study, it feels that an appropriate participation could be made within an expenditure of \$1,500,000. Based upon the allotments made in connection with the Government's exhibits at the Philadelphia Sesqui-centennial Exposition in 1926, the Committee suggests tentatively that your Commission be allotted four hundred square feet of floor space and the sum of \$1,500.00.

"Will you be good enough to send to me as soon as possible a statement as to whether this tentative allocation of space and funds will be adequate for the purposes of your Commission? Will you also forward to me, at your convenience, a further statement outlining a general plan of exhibit by your Commission which will conform to the general theme of the exposition, which is to portray "A Century of Progress"?"

Very truly yours,
(Signed) W. N. Castle,
Assistant Secretary.

The Secretary stated that he had brought the letter to the attention of the members of the Commission and had recommended an appropriation of at least

\$5,000 and double the amount of space suggested by the State Department. Mr. Moore said that he had been considering the matter and had decided that the best thing to exhibit would be the two models of 1901--one showing conditions in Washington at that time and the other the model of the future Washington.

The Commission decided after consideration that this would be a very good exhibit and that the models should be put in shape for the George Washington Bicentennial in 1932. Mr. Mauran particularly favored the suggestion, saying that there is nothing that appeals so to the layman toward an understanding of the Plan of Washington; that in itself the Plan of Washington has played a great part in the promotion of city planning in this country as it is a plan that is actually being carried out, and this being the National Capital, the visitors would be interested in it.

The Secretary stated that based on tentative estimates heretofore received, it would cost \$10,000 to repair the model showing existing conditions in 1901 and to bring the new model of the future Washington up-to-date. The model of the future Washington would show the triangle development south of the Avenue, the plans for enlarging the Capitol Grounds and Union Station Plaza, the United States Supreme Court Building and the Library of Congress Annex, the House Office Building, the Annex to the Senate Office Building, the Botanic Gardens near the Capitol, Union Square and the Mall as it is being now carried out, the Agriculture Department Building as it has been completed, the Municipal Center development north of Pennsylvania Avenue between 3rd and 6th Streets, the extension of the Treasury Department Annex from Pennsylvania Avenue to the State Department Building, H Street that has been authorized by Congress, the Arlington Memorial Bridge

development as it has been carried out, the Mount Vernon Highway, and the George Washington Memorial Parkway, these being among the important new projects under development in the National Capital. (Exhibit K)

13. RESIDENCE AT 6300 NEBRASKA AVENUE: The Inspector of Buildings of the District of Columbia submitted a plan for a residence to be built at 6300 Nebraska Avenue at the intersection of Daniel Road and 29th Street adjacent to Rock Creek Park. Mr. Mauran inspected the design of the building and considered it acceptable, and upon his recommendation the design was approved.

14. PORTRAIT OF GEORGE WASHINGTON FOR THE ARLINGTON MANSION: Mr. Winter reported that in company with General Bash he had inspected the portrait of George Washington intended for the Arlington Mansion, at the studio of Miss Burdett and found that she had made the changes in the portrait that had been recommended by the Commission. Upon Mr. Winter's recommendation, the Commission approved the portrait. (Exhibit L)

15. WAR AND NAVY BUILDINGS: A memorandum (Exhibit M) prepared by Mr. Moore and sent to each of the members of the Commission of Fine Arts regarding the proposed location of the War and Navy Buildings on Pennsylvania Avenue west of 17th Street and calling attention also to certain other building problems in the National Capital, was unanimously approved by the Commission, and sent as a report to the President.

16. MERIDIAN HILL PARK: On Thursday, November 6, Mr. Vitale in company with Mr. Moore, Mr. Mauran, and Mr. Caemmerer made an inspection of Meridian Hill Park. Mr. Vitale called attention in particular to the necessity of having water placed in the large basin of the Lower Garden to preserve it and of putting timber along its sides to protect it from expansion of the ice. He

advised also as to the planting for the Lower Garden and in the vicinity of the Buchanan Memorial. As to the Upper Garden, Mr. Vitale urged replanting of hornbeams and that the hemlock hedge be not cut, so that it will provide in time niches for additional monuments that will be placed in Meridian Hill Park. He strongly favored the omission of the band-stand heretofore considered for the Upper Garden, using instead a platform on the Grand Terrace or near it. Mr. Vitale further urged the planting of good-sized trees (elm trees) on the Grand Terrace as soon as the construction work is completed. On Friday morning, Mr. Vitale made an inspection of the model submitted by Mr. Peaslee for the treatment of the cascade, concerning which Mr. Vitale made certain recommendations, contained in a letter that Mr. Peaslee wrote to Colonel Grant. In addition he suggested certain other matters in the interest of the development of Meridian Hill Park. (Exhibit X)

17. ARLINGTON NATIONAL CEMETERY: On Thursday, December 6, Mr. Vitale, Mr. Mauran, Mr. Moore, and Mr. Caemmerer visited the Arlington National Cemetery and inspected the work of restoration of Arlington House, including the grounds surrounding it. The work done in the restoration of the house was regarded very satisfactory, including the furnishings of the rooms to resemble those of the early days of the Republic. Period furniture loaned by General Horton had been placed in them.

Mr. Vitale strongly recommended the restoring of the green slope on the east side of the Mansion and taking out at this time the posts and chains that surround the grave of General Sheridan and the grave of Admiral Porter. Mr. Vitale was of the opinion that the Tomb of the Unknown Soldiers of the Civil War should be relocated near the Arlington Amphitheatre so as to give it a more prominent location. Mr. Moore was rather in favor of keeping the

Tomb at its present location, which is near the old wooden amphitheatre that was used in the time of Abraham Lincoln. Mr. Moore said this is the Civil War section of Arlington and the location of the Tomb could be very greatly improved by removing the very ordinary "Temple of Fame", which stands in front of it.

An inspection was also made of the site for the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier of the World War and its approaches. It was hoped that the new graves and tombstones that have been placed by the cemetery authorities on the slope a few hundred feet east of the Amphitheatre can be relocated when the work on the construction of the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier and its approaches takes place. Mr. Vitale said he had conferred with Mr. Rich regarding his design and made further suggestions to Mr. Rich regarding it at another inspection of the plans just before sailing, particularly that the oval at the foot of the steps be planted with grass rather than paved. (Exhibit N and N-1)

An inspection was made of the Peary Memorial site at the south end of Arlington, and it was considered very satisfactory to the members of the Commission.

18. CONFERENCE WITH REPRESENTATIVES OF THE MURAL PAINTERS SOCIETY, NATIONAL SCULPTURE SOCIETY, AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTS AND AMERICAN SOCIETY OF LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTS: The Commission were in conference during the afternoon with Representative Sol Bloom and Lieut. Col. U. S. Grant 3d, Associate Directors of the George Washington Bicentennial Commission, and with James Monroe Hewlett, representing the Mural Painters Society, also Ernest Peixotto, President, and Mr. Ezra Winter; Mr. James E. Fraser and Mr. Henry Hering, representing the National Sculpture Society, also represented by Mr. Weinman; Mr. Horace W. Peaslee, Second Vice President, and Mr. Frank C. Baldwin, Secretary, of the American Institute of Architects; and Mr. Vitale, represent-

ing the American Society of Landscape Architects, regarding a fine arts exhibition for the George Washington Bicentennial in 1932. The representatives of these various organizations were heartily in favor of preparing a fine arts exhibition which would be appropriate for the celebration. The great question with them at this time was where it would be held in Washington and the amount of space that would be made available for it. Mr. Hewlett said that in mural paintings they could portray interesting scenes of George Washington's time. Mr. Weinman said that the National Sculpture Society has under consideration the question of an outdoor exhibition of sculpture for the Bicentennial. Mr. Peaslee said the American Institute of Architects will have its convention in 1932 during the week of April 30, when the inauguration of George Washington in 1789 will be commemorated and that the Institute would like to have on display the plans of the National Capital with due emphasis on such plans and pictures as can be made available to illustrate George Washington's time and his part in the work of establishing the National Capital. Mr. Vitale said the American Society of Landscape Architects would cooperate in this exhibition and that in the meantime much work should be done to carry out landscape features which are provided for in the Washington Plan.

It was finally agreed as a tentative plan that if possible the exhibition should take place in the National Museum and that Mr. Moore and Col. Grant should confer with Dr. Alexander Wetmore, Assistant Secretary of the Smithsonian Institution, as to the amount of space that would be made available for the proposed exhibition in the National Museum. (Exhibit O)

19. AMERICAN PHARMACEUTICAL ASSOCIATION BUILDING: Under date of November 6, 1930, the following letter was received from Dr. E. F. Kelly, Secretary, of the

American Pharmaceutical Association, reporting that the Association has arranged to buy all the hitherto unpurchased land on the north side of Upper Water Street between 22nd and 23rd Streets, excepting Lot 800, which is adjacent to 22nd Street:

November 6, 1930.

Gentlemen:

"We are pleased to advise that a contract of sale has been entered into by this Association with the George Washington University for Lots 12, 13, 14, 15 and 7 in Square 62 N. W. and that an agreement has been reached with the owners to purchase Lots 801, 802, 16 and 17 in this square. As the Association is already in possession of Lots 3, 4 and 5, it is the owner or prospective owner of all the lots in the square that face on the north side of Little Water Street with the exception of Lot No. 800.

"The Association desires to begin the construction of its building as early as possible in the spring of 1931 and therefore requests the active support of your Commission in securing the necessary legislation to close Little Water Street between Twenty-Second and Twenty-Third Streets, N. W."

Very truly yours,
(Signed) E. F. Kelly, Secretary.

The American Pharmaceutical Association has control of all the land south of Upper Water Street between 22nd and 23rd Streets. The Commission, therefore, felt that this portion of Upper Water Street should be closed at the earliest opportunity and recommended the enactment of the necessary legislation, which is pending, to bring this about. (Exhibit P) The Commission will advise as to the working drawings whenever presented.

20. MOUNT VERNON TERMINAL HOUSE: Mr. Edward W. Donn, Jr., Architect, presented in behalf of the Bureau of Public Roads, Department of Agriculture, which has charge of the construction of the Mount Vernon Highway, sketches for the terminal house of this highway at Mount Vernon. The architect members of the Commission inspected them and considered them well designed and conforming

to the type of architecture of Mount Vernon. Upon the recommendation of the architect members, the Commission approved the sketches. (Exhibit Q)

21. STUDIES BY THE BEAUX ARTS SOCIETY: Under date of October 31, 1930, the following letter was received from Mr. H. W. Peaslee, Second Vice President of the American Institute of Architects, calling attention to studies prepared by the Beaux Arts Society of that portion of the Plan of Washington east of the Capitol along East Capitol Street where it has been suggested a group of State buildings be erected; Mr. Peaslee asked if the Commission would inspect these studies some time during the day of the meeting at the studio of Mr. William Partridge, 1517 H Street, N. W.:

October 31, 1930.

My dear Doctor Moore:

"I have your letter of the 29th. I quite agree with you that the project for an Avenue of the States would be very difficult of realization, and that very possibly an avenue of semi-public buildings as a project would be more readily capable of realization than an Avenue of the States. I discussed this with the chairman of the Committee on Education of the Beaux-Arts Institute, but the general reaction has been that the problem as presented was more suitable for student study.

"The main point was that this problem started the imagination to work and aroused a great deal of interest throughout the country, all tending to focus upon the adequate development of the area lying to the east of the Capitol. It has also brought out a great many ideas for the treatment of the Lincoln Park intersection which are applicable to any scheme involving the grouping of buildings, whether for an avenue of the states or for semi-public buildings.

"The drawings are being kept at Mr. Partridge's studio, across from the Cosmos Club, for inspection by the Planning Commission at the next meeting; and I would appreciate it very much if you would make it possible to have the Fine Arts Commission also inspect them at their meeting of November 7th in connection with their Cosmos Club luncheon. Some ten or fifteen Washington problems have already been studied by the students of architecture and the chapters, and it is very helpful in stimulating this movement to have the students know that their work is seen by the members of your commission.

"I am very much interested in what you have to suggest about the treatment of Massachusetts Avenue from the Union Station to Fourteenth Street, and if you will outline the treatment of the avenue as you conceive it to be desirable, something that could be used as the basis of a problem, I would be glad to take it up with the Beaux-Arts Society or with some of the individual groups who are applying from time to time for thesis material.

Sincerely yours,
(Signed) Horace W. Peaslee

The Commission visited the studio of Mr. Partridge in the afternoon and inspected the drawings. It was noted that State buildings were proposed not only along East Capitol Street but at Lincoln Park it was proposed to erect 13 buildings around it and designate the location as Colonial Square. From Lincoln Park, East Capitol Street extends eastward to Anacostia Park where it is proposed to erect a stadium.

The Commission expressed interest in and appreciation of the amount of thought and labor put upon the plans as presented and the general brilliancy of the drawings. However, the Commission did not commit itself to the project of having an Avenue of State buildings. (Exhibit R)

22. ADDITION TO THE LIBRARY OF CONGRESS: Mr. David Lynn, Architect of the Capitol, submitted plans for an addition to the Library of Congress, authorized by Congress, to be located immediately east of the Main building. The plans were prepared by Pierson and Wilson, Architects, with Mr. Alexander Broweridge, Consulting Architect, who was also present and explained the plans. The Commission noted that in design they had a resemblance to the main Library of Congress building but felt certain changes should be made in them. The Commission suggested that the building be designed also in relation to the Folger Shakespeare Library, which is being built immediately to the north of the proposed Library of Congress addition. Mr. Morris objected strongly to the scheme showing a

group of three windows on two of the wall surfaces of the building, saying that this should be broken up. More windows with units without bays would improve the interior lighting facilities whenever it is found necessary to change the interior wall space in the re-arrangement of the rooms. The designs suggested a panel, also a panel with a motif in it, at the upper part of the projection of the exterior wall. The advice of the Commission was requested on this feature. The Commission favored the simple panel and suggested an inscription be placed on it. Mr. Lynn and the architects thought this would be appropriate and pleasing to the library authorities. The Commission approved the plans in principle. (Exhibit S)

With this addition, it is estimated that the library will hold 10,000,000 volumes. Based on the estimated growth of the library during the past 28 years, this will provide sufficient space for the next 100 years.

(On Monday, November 17, the architects resubmitted the designs to Mr. Morris and Mr. Cross in New York City, who after inspection, approved them, suggesting certain minor modifications in detail. The architects stated that they will submit the completed drawings to the Commission of Fine Arts.)

23. GENERAL ARTEMAS WARD STATUE: Mr. Moore submitted a photograph of a revised model sent to him by Mr. Joseph A. Coletti, Sculptor, of Boston, for the General Artemas Ward Statue to be erected in Washington by authority of Congress. The photograph was brought to the attention of Mr. Weinman, who after inspecting it, was not at all satisfied with it and felt convinced that Mr. Coletti is not capable of producing a monument from this model which would be appropriate for the National Capital. Mr. Weinman was strongly of the opinion that Mr. Coletti has not had sufficient experience in producing a monumental work

of art. Mr. Weinman, therefore, disapproved the model and recommended that the work be placed in the hands of some other sculptor. The Commission concurred in this matter. (Exhibit T, T-1, and T-2)

24. ARLINGTON MEMORIAL BRIDGE:

a. Memorial Entrance to Arlington. Mr. William Mitchell Kendall submitted in behalf of McKim, Mead and White complete drawings for the memorial entrance to the Arlington National Cemetery. The Commission noted that they carried out the suggestions heretofore made on progress plans that had been submitted from time to time and approved them.

b. Memorial Columns. The Commission gave very serious consideration to the question of erecting the memorial columns on Columbia Island. The importance of erecting these columns so as to be memorial columns as was contemplated when the general plans for the Arlington Memorial Bridge were adopted, was strongly emphasized. The Commission after further consideration adopted the following minute, urging the erection of these memorial columns:

"The two columns on Columbia Island are to express the essential unity of the nation. At the time when Daniel Webster made his prophetic declaration (quoting President Jackson) there were only the North and the South. Now there is also a West, which presupposes also an East. The elimination of the statue at the Arlington end of the composition makes it imperative to express elsewhere this unity; and the most significant way in which this idea can be expressed is in the two Columbia Island columns with their symbolic sculpture.

"The Commission of Fine Arts has considered from time to time the detail of these columns as presented in the architect's drawings; but the significance of the columns has not been adequately discussed. Nor yet has the symbolic character of the sculpture itself received due consideration. Perhaps the best way to arrive at a satisfactory and adequate solution would be by a cooperative study of both architecture and sculpture to the end that both elements have due consideration in solving a problem which is after all first the mental concept and afterwards the artistic manner of carrying out the conception.

"This Commission feels that as yet the treatment has not risen to such heights; and that as a consequence, time has been taken in discussing details which have a subordinate place in the scheme. What we would like to see is a study made by both architect and sculptor working together to produce a unified result of supreme excellence."

Mr. Kendall said that a model of the columns is being made and will be presented at the next meeting of the Commission. It was understood that the sculpture relief proposed for the base of the columns would be a matter for special study by the sculptor selected for the columns.

c. Inspection of Lamp Posts. The Commission made another inspection of the lamp posts exhibited by Colonel Grant, Executive and Disbursing Officer of the Arlington Memorial Bridge Commission, at the Memorial Bridge in the evening. Instead of a 1,000 Watt lamp, simply a 500 and 300 Watt lamp was used on 15' lamp posts that had been erected. The Commission inspected them, Mr. Kendall being present. Col. Grant was of the opinion that the lamp posts should be 18' high to meet the latest recommendation in the regulation of traffic, and a 18' lamp post was also shown among the sample posts submitted. This the Commission regarded too high for the Memorial Bridge. Mr. Kendall was strongly opposed to having the lamp posts more than 15' high and to using a more than 300 Watt lamp; the Commission concurred in this. The Commission also advised that the lamp posts and globes should be especially designed for the Memorial Bridge.

d. Statues for the Arlington Memorial Bridge. A model of the statues proposed for the Arlington Memorial Bridge was inspected, and brought to the particular attention of Mr. Weinman. Mr. Weinman felt that the model exhibited was too large for the bridge and recommended that one or more models be made

reduced in scale fully the length of the head and neck, also that the pedestal be reduced in size. The Commission concurred in this and suggested that the revised models be placed on the bridge at some time in the near future. A report on these projects was made to Colonel Grant. (Exhibit A)

The Commission adjourned at 9:30 p. m. The Commission had as their guests at luncheon: Honorable Sol Bloom; Lieut. Col. U. S. Grant 3d; Mr. Kendall; Mr. Peixotto; Mr. Hewlett; Mr. Fraser; Mr. Hering; Mr. Peaslee; Mr. Baldwin; Lieut. Butler; and Mr. Donn.

C O P Y

November 11, 1930.

Dear Colonel Grant:

The Commission of Fine Arts at their meeting, November 7, 1930, inspected with you and Mr. William Mitchell Kendall of McKim, Mead and White, architects, the lamp posts proposed for the Memorial Bridge. The Commission unanimously recommend a 15-foot lamp post, with a globe designed by the architects. The Commission recommend that 300 candle power lights be used. High-powered bridge lights are not necessary for traffic. Nor are they desirable for pedestrians and those who linger on the bridge, for whom provision has been made by seats located at intervals in the bridge design. High-powered lights take from the very beautiful structure of the bridge just those shadows which beauty requires. They reduce the bridge to the level of a high-speed traffic way, so that it loses the monumental character Congress intended.

The Commission again considered the model for statues on the bridge, but without reaching a definite conclusion. They recommend that several new models be made, showing the figure reduced in height the full length of the head and neck; also that the base of the figure be made somewhat smaller. This will give data for definite advice.

EXHIBIT A

The Commission inspected the full-sized drawings submitted by Mr. Kendall in behalf of the architects for the entrance to Arlington National Cemetery and approved them.

The Commission approved scale models submitted by Mr. Leo Friedlander for the sculptural groups for the Arlington Memorial Bridge near the Lincoln Memorial. The Commission suggested certain changes, which will be brought to Mr. Friedlander's attention by Mr. Kendall, with whom the Commission consulted at the time.

The Commission also inspected drawings submitted by Mr. James E. Fraser, sculptor, for the groups at the entrance to the Rock Creek Parkway. These sketches represented the clay model of one of Mr. Fraser's two groups. The sketches were satisfactory.

A meeting of the Commission of Fine Arts has been arranged for December 4, at the office of McKim, Mead and White, where the models of both Mr. Friedlander and Mr. Fraser will be further considered by the Commission.

The Commission considered the matter of the columns on Columbia Island, and with the concurrence of the architect, adopted this minute:

"The two columns on Columbia Island are to express the essential unity of the nation. At the time when Daniel Webster made his prophetic declaration (quoting President Jackson) there were only the North and the South. Now there is also a West, which presupposes also an East. The elimination of the statue at the Arlington end of the composition makes it imperative to express elsewhere this unity; and the most

significant way in which this idea can be expressed is in the two Columbia Island columns with their symbolic sculpture.

"The Commission of Fine Arts has considered from time to time the detail of these columns as presented in the architect's drawings; but the significance of the columns has not been adequately discussed. Nor yet has the symbolic character of the sculpture itself received due consideration. Perhaps the best way to arrive at a satisfactory and adequate solution would be by a cooperative study of both architecture and sculpture to the end that both elements have due consideration in solving a problem which is after all first the mental concept and afterwards the artistic manner of carrying out the conception.

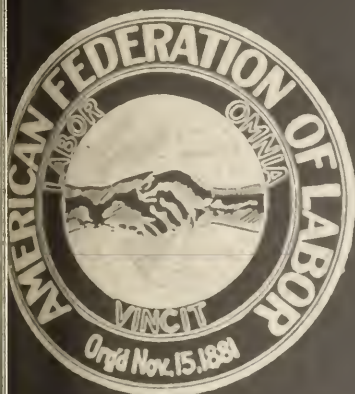
"This Commission feels that as yet the treatment has not risen to such heights; and that as a consequence, time has been taken in discussing details which have a subordinate place in the scheme. What we would like to see is a study made by both architect and sculptor working together to produce a unified result of supreme excellence."

For the Commission of Fine Arts:

Very respectfully yours,

(Signed) Charles Moore
Chairman.

Lieut. Col. U. S. Grant 3d,
Executive and Disbursing Officer,
Arlington Memorial Bridge Commission,
Washington, D. C.



AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR

Executive Council.

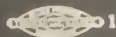
President, WILLIAM GREEN.
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Seventh Vice-President, JOSEPH N. WEBER,
1440 Broadway, New York, N. Y.
Eighth Vice-President, G. M. BUCHANAN,
1300 Fifteenth St. N. W., Washington, D. C.

A. F. OF L. BUILDING

IWB



Washington, D. C., October 25, 1930.

Mr. Charles Moore, Chairman,

The Commission of Fine Arts,

Interior Department Building,

Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Moore:

This is to advise you that the Executive Council of the American Federation of Labor passed upon the design of model of the Samuel Gompers Memorial at the studio of Mr. Robert I. Aitken on October 21st. They approved the design providing it has the approval of the Commission of Fine Arts.

In talking with Mr. Aitken he was desirous of receiving information as to whether he should ship the model to Washington or if your Commission would look it over at his studio.

This is simply official information and to confirm our talk over the phone yesterday.

Very truly yours,

Exhibit B

Frank Morrison
Secretary,
American Federation of Labor.

C O P Y

November 8, 1930.

Dear Mr. Morrison:

The Commission of Fine Arts being informed by you that Mr. Robert Aitken, Sculptor, had completed his preliminary model for the Samuel Gompers and American Federation of Labor Memorial, arranged with the sculptor member of the Commission, Mr. A. A. Weinman, and several other members of the Commission for an inspection of the model at the studio of Mr. Aitken.

The members of the Commission are highly pleased with the model and approved it at the meeting of the Commission of Fine Arts held November 7, 1930.

The Commission have made a few suggestions to the sculptor, which will be embodied in a further study of his design. The Commission gave special consideration to the figure of Mr. Gompers, to be in bronze, and recommended that for the pedestal of this figure dark green granite be used instead of Georgia pink marble, which Mr. Aitken purposes to use for the rest of the memorial. Also in connection with the carrying out of a further study of the design, the Commission would be pleased to have Mr. Aitken submit a planting scheme for the memorial. The Commission noted that the memorial is to be seen from both the front and the back. The planting immediately at the back of the memorial will, therefore, be low, but as it extends to the east and to the west of the memorial, larger planting should be used. The material for the monument will be decided upon when the working model is submitted.

For the Commission of Fine Arts:

Very respectfully yours,

(Signed) Charles Moore

Chairman.

Mr. Frank Morrison, Secretary,
American Federation of Labor,
Washington, D. C.

EXHIBIT C

Charles Keck
Forty West Tenth Street
New York

RECEIVED
THE COMMISSION OF FINE ARTS
WASHINGTON, D. C.
OCT 21 1930

The Commission of Fine Arts,
Interior Department Building,
Washington, D.C.

October 21, 1930.

Gentlemen:

I have just received your letter of October 18th informing me that the matter of the Second Division Memorial would be reopened and you have asked me to submit my design for further consideration, and I want to thank you for the fairness of this decision. I am personally expressing my thanks to Mr. Fraser.

Your letter does not state what form the submission should take - whether the Commission desires to have the plaster model or whether they would prefer to have drawings or photographs of the design. The question of scale has also been omitted, I assume, because you wish to give the competitors an opportunity to submit the models which they already have. Thus far I have had no advice as to the site or the ground available. As to the time for submission of these models, I would say December 1st. If it is desirable to have them earlier, please advise me, and I will arrange accordingly.

Mr. Fraser called me on the 'phone this morning and wanted to know what all the trouble was about. He stated that he had given up the contract with the understanding that the designs submitted be judged by the Art Commission and not by another Jury, which is a different impression than I got from the letter I received from the Art Commission.

This being the case I see no alternative. I am not opposed to having the Art Commission judge these designs, but it might be that the members of the Commission themselves would prefer to have an outside jury. If this be the case, I should like to suggest the following names -

Mr. Cass Gilbert
Mr. Harvey Wiley Corbett as Architects and
Attilio Piccirilli
Isidore Konti
John Gregory as Sculptors.

Charles Keck
Forty West Tenth Street
New York

The Commission of Fine Arts.....#2

It is my impression that the designs have really never been passed upon by the Art Commission, the decision having been made apparently on August 22nd, at which time, I am informed, there was no meeting.

If the Art Commission feels that it is fairer to all concerned to judge the models, I am satisfied; if on the other hand, they should feel it would be embarrassing to them and they would prefer to choose a Jury, I am satisfied also to abide by that decision. I am sure that the final decision will be just and fair to all.

Yours very truly,

Charles Keck

EDWARD FIELD SANFORD, JR
15 WEST 67TH STREET
NEW YORK, N. Y.

RECEIVED
COMMISSION OF FINE ARTS
WASHINGTON, D. C.

OCT 23 1930
October 22nd, 1930
1 3 0.

The Commission of Fine Arts,
Interior Department Building,
Washington-D.C.

Gentlemen:

I am in receipt of your communication of October 18th, 1930, in which you set forth the decision of the Commission of Fine Arts to reconsider the matter of the Second Division Memorial. I beg to state that this decision, as set forth in your recent letter, is entirely congenial to me.

In compliance with your request to name five individuals as possible jurors, I should like to submit the following names. None of these gentlemen are close personal friends.

1. Harvey W. Corbett
2. John Gregory
3. Attilio Piccirilli
4. A. Sterling Calder
5. Joseph Freedlander.

Under separate cover, I am sending you the identical drawing originally submitted, together with photographs of the sketch-model, also as originally submitted.

It is perhaps unnecessary to state that such date as the Commission may select for the judgement will be agreeable to me. However, I should greatly appreciate it if the Commission would not only inform me as to that date, but also have the courtesy to notify me at their earliest convenience, of the final decision.

Very truly yours,

E. F. Sanford

328 EAST FORTY-SECOND STREET

RECEIVED
COMMISSION OF FINE ARTS
WASHINGTON
OCT 13 1930
101

My dear Mr. Schumacher:

I am in receipt of your letter of October 13, and I agree to its contents except where it refers to a new jury.

Such an idea is not in accord with the original letter and instructions set forth by Gen. Harbord when he invited the sculptors to send designs and asked for a decision by the Commission of Fine Arts. I have consulted with Mr. Pope's office and they insist and I agree that there can be no change in the jury and my letter to Gen. Harbord cancels the contract only under that condition.

I cannot concede any one wanting these conditions in the beginning, the right to demand a departure from that program during the progress of the judgment. To my mind that would be decidedly unethical as well as a reflection on the Commission of Fine Arts.

I have talked with Mr. Keck and he informs me that the Fine Arts Commission as a whole has not passed on the three models and it therefore appears to me that it is a question of the full commission seeing all the models and making its recommendation. Mr. Keck tells me he is willing to abide by such a decision.

Yours very truly,

Mr. M. F. Schumacher,
Commission of Fine Arts,
Interior Department Building,
Washington, D. C.

W. H. Keck

entirely in accordance with
the Memorial."

In accordance with the agreement reached, the Commission of Fine Arts will be pleased to have you resubmit the design you prepared.

or modification thereof in detail, for the Second Division Memorial to this Commission.

In order to meet the event, that two of the three competitors agree that a new jury be established, you are requested to name five individuals as possible jurors, in the order of your preference. The Commission of Fine Arts will select the three names receiving the most votes as the members of the jury, but should the nominations as received make this procedure impossible, the Commission will name the jury from the names received, in accordance with its best judgment. If two of the three competitors do not desire a new jury, the Commission of Fine Arts will act as the jury.

The judgment arrived at will be submitted with a recommendation by the Commission of Fine Arts to the Committee of the Second Division, which, however, shall retain full right and power to make the final selection and award of contract.

The Commission of Fine Arts wish to allow you such time as may be necessary for you to bring your design or model into shape for resubmission, and will consider your suggestions as to the date of such resubmission.

Yours very truly,

(Signed) H. P. Caemmerer,

Executive Secretary
and Administrative Officer.

Mr. James E. Fraser,
328 East 42nd Street,
New York, N. Y.

C O P Y

November 10, 1930.

Dear Colonel Grant:

The Commission of Fine Arts at their meeting on November 7, 1930, considered the question of location for the Navy and Marine Memorial, presented by Harvey Wiley Corbett, Architect. The Commission understood that the memorial was to be erected on the Potomac side of the river in East Potomac Park but that a site on Columbia Island is now preferred. The new location selected for this memorial is the southeast end of Columbia Island, and the Commission approved the location of the Navy and Marine Memorial at that point.

For the Commission of Fine Arts:

Very respectfully yours,

(Signed) Charles Moore,

Chairman.

Lieut. Col. U. S. Grant 3d, Director,
Public Buildings and Public Parks,
Washington, D. C.

EXHIBIT E

[PUBLIC—No. 175—71ST CONGRESS]

[S. 686]

An Act To amend an Act regulating the height of buildings in the District of Columbia, approved June 1, 1910.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That an Act entitled "An Act to regulate the height of buildings in the District of Columbia," approved June 1, 1910, be, and it is hereby, amended by adding at the end of paragraph 5 of said Act the following provisos:

"And provided further, That the building to be erected on property known as the Dean tract, comprising nine and one-fourth acres, bounded on the west by Connecticut Avenue and Columbia Road, on the south by Florida Avenue, on the east by Nineteenth Street, and on the north by a property line running east and west five hundred and sixty-four feet in length, said building to cover an area not exceeding fourteen thousand square feet and to be located on said property not less than forty feet distant from the north property line, not less than three hundred and twenty feet distant from the Connecticut Avenue property line, not less than one hundred and sixty feet distant from the Nineteenth Street property line, and not less than three hundred and sixty feet distant from the Florida Avenue line, measured at the point on the Florida Avenue boundary where the center line of Twentieth Street meets said boundary, be permitted to be erected to a height not to exceed one hundred and eighty feet above the level of the existing grade at the center of the location above described: *And provided further,* That the design of said building and the layout of said ground be subject to approval by the Fine Arts Commission and the National Capital Park and Planning Commission, both of the District of Columbia."

Approved, April 29, 1930.

Exhibit F

C O P Y

November 11, 1930.

Dear Mr. Corbett:

The Commission of Fine Arts at their meeting on November 7, 1930, gave careful consideration to your letter of November 3, and to the revised design which you submitted for the United Masonic Temple to be built on the Dean Tract.

The Commission noted that the design as revised eliminates the feature of the tower, which thereby keeps the structure within the zoning regulations. Therefore, the proposed buildings do not come under the special Act of Congress, approved April 29, 1930 (Public No. 175, 71st Congress), authorizing a special permit for excess height over a limited area of the Dean Tract for the United Masonic Temple; and limiting the ground area so as to preserve wide parking spaces around the building.

Naturally, the Commission do not favor the erection of apartment houses along the northwest side of the grounds although they appreciate the fact that because of the requirement to pay taxes, this becomes desirable in order to secure additional income by the Masonic Order.

The question of the Government acquiring a portion of the Dean Tract for park purposes was considered with Colonel Grant, and it is

EXHIBIT G

understood his views in the matter as set forth in behalf of the National Capital Park and Planning Commission have been submitted to you. This Commission feels that the problem of the public use of the open areas by the public has not been solved in any place they have seen.

In this connection the Commission feels that the Masonic Fraternity, having acquired the Dana Tract, will not lose any so fine an opportunity to provide adequate landscape treatment for their monumental building, as happened unfortunately in the case of the Scottish Rite Temple on Sixteenth Street.

As for the south side of the Dana Tract along Florida Avenue, the Commission of Fine Arts believes that Florida Avenue should be widened now, as it doubtless will be in the near future, to meet traffic requirements.

The Commission of Fine Arts appreciate your courtesy in bringing to their attention these plans, although you are not bound by law to do so. They assure you of their interest in the project and their readiness to advise with you to secure a result satisfactory at once to the Masonic Fraternity and to the general appearance of the City of Washington.

For the Commission of Fine Arts:

Very respectfully yours,

(Signed) Charles Moore,

Mr. Harvey Wiley Corbett, Chairman,
Corbett, Harrison and MacCurry,
130 East 42nd Street,
New York, N. Y.

C O P Y

November 14, 1930.

My dear Colonel Grant:

The Commission of Fine Arts at their meeting on November 7, 1930, considered with you the relocation of the General Rawlins Statue from its present site at 7th Street and Pennsylvania Avenue to Rawlins Square.

The Commission inspected the location plan you submitted, and upon bringing the matter to the particular attention of Mr. Weinman, he suggested a site immediately south of E Street at the foot of the steps on the cross axis. Later in the day, on inspecting this location, Mr. Weinman was convinced that the area between E Street and the center of the square is too narrow to justify the relocation of the statue there. It was noted from the location plan that you suggested placing the statue either at the east or the west end of the square. This suggestion was thereupon brought to the attention of Mr. Weinman, who has stated that he would like very much to give this matter further consideration the next time he is in Washington. Since we are meeting in New York City on December 4, I think that with the aid of the location plan and photographs, we can settle this matter. At any rate, it can be considered further by the Commission of Fine Arts at that time. Of course, as you know, the Commission urged redesigning of the pedestal.

Sincerely yours,

(Signed) Charles Moore,

Chairman.

Lieut. Col. U. S. Grant 36, Director,
Public Buildings and Public Parks,
Washington, D. C.

EXHIBIT H

C O P Y

November 11, 1930.

Dear Colonel Grant:

The Commission of Fine Arts at their meeting on November 7, 1930, considered the plan which you submitted for the location of a levee between the Lincoln Memorial and the temporary War and Navy buildings, with a view to protecting that building from a possible flood. The Commission brought the matter to the particular attention of Mr. Vitale, who after a personal inspection of the location, submitted the following report:

"An engineer from the office of Major Gillette accompanied me during the inspection of the temporary levee, which it is the intention to erect, through the Lincoln Memorial grounds and the area of the future Monument grounds to the knoll of the Washington Monument. This levee, as sketched on the ground, crosses the northwest quarter of the Memorial grounds from the corner of D Street North to the southwest corner of the temporary buildings, varying in grade from nothing at the D Street corner to about 2 ft. at the temporary buildings. A dike at this point would be exceedingly unsightly, and I suggest that it be placed as a temporary expedient along the south side of D Street North, or better yet, that the level of the entire area be so raised as to be free from danger of inundation. If this is done, the south base of the area and the small secondary steps would be raised 2 ft. at a permanent condition without aesthetic injury.

"The levee continues thereafter along the southern edge of the temporary buildings area. I do not think it is objectionable, and when the temporary buildings are removed the grade of the entire area can be raised as the one mentioned above.

"After a small gap, which it is intended to provide for in case of flood by the use of sandbags, the levee crosses the ground to be occupied in the future by the

Monument Gardens and varies in grade from 6 ft. to 8 ft. It will, undoubtedly, be unsightly, but the area at present is more or less of a mess and perhaps this levee will show the advisability of filling the area of the Monument Gardens in advance of their design and construction."

The Commission concur in the recommendation of Mr. Vitale that the levee be placed as a temporary expedient along the south side of B Street north or better yet, that the level of the entire area be raised so as to be free from danger of inundation.

For the Commission of Fine Arts:

Very respectfully yours,

(Signed) Charles Moore,

Chairman.

Lieut. Col. U. S. Grant 3d, Director,
Public Buildings and Public Parks,
Washington, D. C.

EXHIBIT I

C O P Y

November 10, 1930.

Dear Colonel Grant:

The Commission of Fine Arts at their meeting on November 7, 1930, considered the sketch submitted for a bridge in Rock Creek Parkway. The Commission suggest a simpler design, without abutments.

In view of the fact that a tower is necessary for the protection of the park, the Commission sees no objection to incorporating such a tower in the design; but it should not seem to be designed as an ornament. It should be kept simple.

For the Commission of Fine Arts:

Very respectfully yours,

(Signed) Charles Moore

Chairman.

Lieut. Col. U. S. Grant 3d, Director,
Public Buildings and Public Parks,
Washington, D. C.

EXHIBIT J

C O P Y

November 11, 1930.

Dear Colonel Grant:

The Commission of Fine Arts, as you know, was recently asked to make an exhibition showing the progress of the Washington work. These exhibitions always fall far below what they should be for lack of comprehensive material adequately presented.

In view of the many developments now in progress and the difficulty of obtaining an adequate exhibition of the whole problem the Commission of Fine Arts suggest that the models of 1901 be put in order. The model showing conditions as they existed in 1901 needs only minor repairs. The model showing proposed conditions should be brought down to date. This will call for a very considerable number of new buildings, but no drastic changes need be made in the structure of the model itself. It will be necessary first to get an estimate on the entire work and then devise means to obtain the money.

When the Commission of 1901 was organized the very first thing the members required was the models in question. So strongly did they feel on this matter that Mr. Burnham, Mr. McKim, and Mr. Olmsted each advanced \$1,000 necessary to begin the work on the models. This money was repaid to them ultimately and the models were completed at Government expense. I think the two models cost about \$30,000. In worry and bother the cost

EXHIBIT K

could not be estimated. But they accomplished their purpose as nothing else could do and they have been used for the guidance of the Commission of Fine Arts ever since. They would seem to be necessary for future guidance, and of special interest to the public, especially since they present in the most graphic form the changes that have occurred during the past thirty years. When one reflects that the Union Station was not then designed; that of the row of buildings facing the President's Park only the Corcoran was in existence at that time; also that the whole area of the Lincoln Memorial was barren waste, you begin to realize the extent of the changes. On the other hand, the general design of the Lincoln Memorial as it now stands, the Arlington Memorial Bridge, the Water Gate, and the Rock Creek Parkway, the buildings in the Triangle, and the site of the Union Station, together with the development of Union Square and the Mall, are all shown on the model of proposed changes. I know this is a very considerable undertaking but I think the results both for the architects and for the public would make it pay.

For the Commission of Fine Arts:

Very respectfully, yours,

(Signed) Charles Moore,

Chairman.

Lieut. Col. U. S. Grant 3d, Associate Director,
George Washington Bicentennial Commission,
Washington, D. C.

C O P Y

November 10, 1930.

Dear General Bash:

The portrait of George Washington by Miss Burdett, which is to be placed in the Arlington Mansion, was again inspected by Mr. Ezra Winter, painter member of the Commission of Fine Arts, who noted that Miss Burdett had embodied in the portrait the changes which he had suggested. On the recommendation of Mr. Winter, the Commission of Fine Arts at their meeting on November 7, 1930, approved the portrait.

Very respectfully yours,

(Signed) Charles Moore,

Chairman.

Brigadier General L. H. Bash, Chief,
Construction Division,
Office of the Quartermaster General,
War Department,
Washington, D. C.

EXHIBIT L

THE NATIONAL COMMISSION OF FINE ARTS

Washington, D. C.

November 19, 1930

The President.

Sir:

At various times during the past year the advice of the Commission of Fine Arts has been asked by Executive Officers of the Government, representing several Departments and Bureaus, as to the location of certain buildings under contemplation.

With a view to an orderly arrangement of these proposed buildings in accordance with the fundamental plan for the uniform development of the national capital, the Commission respectfully submits the following report:

Problems Presented

The Departments of War and of the Navy are seeking locations for new departmental buildings.

The National Institute of Health, probably destined to large growth, is seeking a site.

The Naval Hospital quarters are already inadequate, and will become even more so with the removal of the temporary buildings in order to provide for the development of B Street.

E-11215 M

THE NATIONAL ARCHIVES

Washington, D. C.

November 19, 1954

Dear Sir:

I am writing to you in response to your letter of November 15, 1954, regarding the National Archives and Records Administration. I am pleased to hear that you are interested in the work of the Archives and Records Administration and that you are planning to visit the Archives and Records Administration in Washington, D. C. I am sure that you will find the work of the Archives and Records Administration to be of great interest and value.

Sincerely,

Very truly yours,

John Edgar Hoover, Director

National Archives and Records Administration

Enclosure

I am enclosing for you a copy of the report of the National Archives and Records Administration.

Very truly yours,

John Edgar Hoover, Director

National Archives and Records Administration

I am enclosing for you a copy of the report of the National Archives and Records Administration.

Very truly yours,

John Edgar Hoover, Director

National Archives and Records Administration

The Department of Agriculture soon will be called on to remove and re-locate the glass-houses on the north side of the Mall. Also the already rapid increase in burials at Arlington, and the appalling prospect of millions of graves in the not distant future will force giving up to cemetery purposes the Arlington Experimental Farms of the Department.

St. Elizabeth's, in face of rapid growth in the number of inmates, is suffering curtailment of its farm lands by the development of streets, and of its building areas by parkways on the one side and by the extension of Army flying fields on the other.

These are immediate, pressing needs, each of which demands the purchase of large areas of land within the District of Columbia. The location of such areas is of immediate concern. It is obvious that such purchases should be made according to a well considered plan for the adequate, well-ordered, and beautiful development of the national capital.

The Departments of War and the Navy

In making the new plans for Washington in 1901, the Senate Park Commission, following in the footsteps of President Washington and L'Enfant, conceived it to be their duty to make the very finest plans they were able to conceive. Compromises, if necessary, were left to the future. The virtue of their plans was their fineness. They caught the attention and stirred the imagination of the American people. Now they are being carried out without compromise, and at a cost beyond the conception of that day.

The same considerations hold good today. It is the bounden duty of all makers of any plan for the national capital to strive to find and record the

very finest conception they can conceive. For they may be assured that their successors will go even beyond any conception made today.

Applying this rule to the new location of the Departments of war and the Navy, the Commission of Fine Arts suggest and recommend that the sites for these two Department Buildings be on the north and south sides of Pennsylvania Avenue, west of the White House.

The Commission are convinced that the reasons for such locations are cogent and should carry conviction.

The offices of the President of the United States are the center of the administration of the Nation. For both convenience and dignity the Departments of war and of the Navy should be grouped around the executive center.

The development of the Triangle now in progress throws the Departments of the Treasury, Post Office, Agriculture, Commerce, and Labor east of the White House. West of the White House will be the remodeled State, war and Navy building, intended for the sole occupancy of the State Department.

The Department of the Interior is now lodged in an office building constructed on an inferior location purchased for an archives building, but developed for the Geological Survey and the Bureau of Mines. The importance and dignity of this Department will be expressed eventually in a building appropriate in both design and location.

With Congress an impelling force in locating buildings in the Triangle was the determination to clean up Pennsylvania Avenue, which had degenerated to a disgraceful condition. Conditions on the western portion of the Avenue

are not disgraceful indeed, but they may become so with the shifting of official population to the east. At best the present conditions along the Avenue fall far below those that should characterize the great thoroughfare of the Capital. Large sections of the Triangle bounded by Pennsylvania Avenue, B Street and the Rock Creek Parkway present slum conditions.

The adequate improvement of this portion of the city is made imperative by the high development planned for B Street, extending from the Capitol to the Lincoln Memorial, and of the Rock Creek and Potomac Parkway.

The one drawback to the Triangle improvement is the existing private buildings on the north side of the Avenue from Sixth Street to Fifteenth Street. In locating the War and Navy Departments on Pennsylvania Avenue to the west of the White House this objection can be obviated readily by locating the new buildings on opposite sides of that thoroughfare, preferably utilizing for landscape effects the small triangular reservations in the original L'Enfant Plan of 1792, as for example, those between Eighteenth Street and Nineteenth Street. The Commission of Fine Arts are not committed to a particular location, so long as the principle is maintained of sites on Pennsylvania Avenue west of the White House.

By the extension of the executive area to the west, the White House center would be maintained. Also a uniform development of the city would result. Pennsylvania Avenue would be harmoniously improved throughout its entire length from the Capital to the Rock Creek Parkway. Ultimately this entire area between the Avenue and B Street, much of which is already

owned and occupied by the Government, would be brought up to the level of the Triangle area. To neglect this so great and so obvious an opportunity would result in throwing the city out of balance. Then the future would lament and reprobate the shortsightedness of the present.

The National Institute of Public Health

The location of the National Institute of Public Health, preferably near the Public Health Service building, offers an opportunity to clean out a corner which needs treatment perhaps more than any other in the District of Columbia. A huge, ungainly brewery, abandoned for its original purpose, dominates as only ugliness can dominate a wide area. It dwarfs the Lincoln Memorial as seen from the northwest. It presents a distressful appearance when seen from the Memorial, the Arlington Bridge, and the Rock Creek Parkway.

This corner between B Street and the Rock Creek Parkway adjoins the Public Health Service Laboratory, and is the natural, logical location for the National Institute of Public Health. The latter institution is intended for the promotion of research. In the proposed location it would have the great advantage of ample and attractive park space. The buildings could be designed simply and effectively on the general lines set by the Public Health Service, so as to be a decided addition to that important area. This opportunity should not be neglected.

It adds interest to the location to recall that here George Washington bought lands for the house he expected to build, with ample gardens sloping to the Potomac.

The first of these is the fact that the Government has been unable to secure the necessary funds to carry out its policy of non-interference in the internal affairs of the country. This has led to a situation where the Government is unable to maintain its position and is forced to seek assistance from foreign powers.

The second of these is the fact that the Government has been unable to secure the necessary funds to carry out its policy of non-interference in the internal affairs of the country.

The Government's Policy of Non-Interference

The Government's policy of non-interference in the internal affairs of the country has been a subject of much controversy. It has been argued that this policy is in the best interests of the country, as it allows the people to determine their own future without outside interference.

On the other hand, it has been argued that this policy is in the interests of foreign powers, as it allows them to maintain their influence in the country without having to pay the cost of direct intervention.

The Government has maintained that its policy is based on the principle of self-determination, which is a fundamental principle of international law.

It has also argued that its policy is based on the principle of non-interference, which is a principle that has been recognized by the United Nations and other international organizations.

The Government has further argued that its policy is based on the principle of respect for the sovereignty of the people, which is a principle that has been recognized by the United Nations and other international organizations.

The Government has also argued that its policy is based on the principle of non-alignment, which is a principle that has been recognized by the United Nations and other international organizations.

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The Government has also argued that its policy is based on the principle of self-determination, which is a fundamental principle of international law.

The Naval Hospital

The Naval Hospital has reached the limitations of its lands. Indeed, with the razing of the temporary World War buildings for the extension of B Street, the situation will be acute. The site was once occupied by the Naval Observatory, and the additional buildings were located in a haphazard fashion and are not well designed for present hospital requirements. Either the Naval Hospital or the expanding Public Health Service will have to go--probably the former. This is said in full knowledge of the plan to construct an administration building on B Street for the Public Health Service.

The time has arrived to consider the relocation of the hospital with a view to an ample site, such as the Army has in the Walter Reed Hospital, known also as the Army Medical Center. There are sites along the Anacostia Park which should be considered for the Naval Hospital.

The Agricultural Department Farms and Greenhouses

Three principal sets of Government greenhouses and innumerable smaller ones provide plants and flowers.

The glass-houses, driven from the grounds of the White House in 1903, took temporary refuge opposite the Bureau of Engraving and Printing in Potomac Park, where they occupy space that will soon be needed for park purposes. Not only do they provide the flowers necessary for the White House, but also they furnish plants for the small parks--a service now quite obsolete in the better park designs, save where flowers can be used to produce large effects.

The Botanic Gardens supply Congressional requirements. Located west and south of the Capitol, they have spread over into Anacostia Park.

To the Agricultural Department, Congress granted a portion of the Arlington Estate for an experimental farm.

A heterogeneous collection of shops and glass houses occupies a section of the Mall opposite the Agricultural Department. The National Gallery of Art has been located provisionally in this area.

The expansion of Arlington Cemetery is driving out the Experimental Farms, which already have been seriously reduced in area by the Memorial Bridge extensions. The development of B Street as a monumental Avenue, and the reordering of the Mall according to the Plan of 1901, as authorized by Congress, makes the removal of the Agricultural Department greenhouses imperative in the near future.

The Agricultural Department is now developing an Arboretum of the first order on Mount Hamilton and in Anacostia Park. Whether soil conditions near the Arboretum will provide adequate facilities for either or both services, or whether they will be compelled to seek other lands is a problem primarily with the Department itself. But the new selections should be made in such manner as will permit the public also to enjoy tree and plant growth which is being studied for scientific purposes.

There is a large amount of unoccupied, diversified land in the eastern section of the District of Columbia. The plans prepared by the National Capital Park and Planning Commission, and already well advanced by purchase of lands, will open up this most attractive area. By considering not

present conditions but the development sure to take place in the immediate future, these needs for considerable areas can be met in such a way as to expedite and facilitate the participation of the public while at the same time serving scientific needs.

Saint Elizabeth's

The Government Hospital for the Insane now occupies about 700 acres of land within the Anacostia section of the District of Columbia, comprised in four tracts, one of which (used for farm purposes) extends into Maryland. The total holdings are close to one thousand acres.

The original Saint Elizabeth's tract (so named from an early patent) has a large frontage that commands the City of Washington. No more beautiful or comprehensive view can be obtained from any point of vantage.

The first building, secured through the efforts of Dorothea Dix and constructed under the supervision of Dr. Nichols, the first superintendent of the institution, is still in use. Behind it many buildings constructed since 1900 have been crowded; and the Shepherd Farm across Nichols Avenue (containing 168 acres) is rapidly being filled with needed buildings. Two authorized by Congress have not yet been begun, and eleven others are planned. Already more than one hundred buildings of various sizes are used to accommodate a population of 4,500 patients.

Every new building reduces the farm area necessary to support the institution. The Shepherd Parkway will reduce the farm area; and the playground requirements for the Anacostia section prevent expansion to the east.

The way out of the difficulty would seem to be the purchase of farm lands in nearby Maryland, and the concentration of gardening and farming on one such area. This will leave room for both the hospital buildings and also the extension of streets and parkways in a portion of the District of Columbia beautiful for situation and destined (through extensive purchases of land and wise planning on the part of the National Capital Park and Planning Commission) to become one of the most attractive sections of the District.

Purchase of Privately Owned Buildings

In working out the Public Buildings Program for Washington it has been the custom not to take into consideration the temporary usability of existing structures on the land purchased. This policy has delayed or prevented purchases or has led to the selection of less desirable sites for reasons of economy.

In some of the squares which would seem desirable for purchase by the Government there are private office buildings which might be utilized until the time comes for building on the block, or on that portion of the block so occupied.

A case in point is the building now used by the Department of Commerce. The building was built for Department uses and, while it is not such a building as the Government itself would build, still it will last a number of years and accommodate services that even under the Building Program cannot immediately find quarters in the new Government buildings. The same is true

of the present Interstate Commerce Building, the Railroad Administration Building, the Civil Service Commission Building, and the Labor Department Building.

There is nothing in this suggestion that is novel in practice. The Government bought the old Corcoran Art Gallery, which houses the Court of Claims. It bought the Southern Railway Building and is utilizing it. Many other instances could be found.

What the Commission of Fine Arts are contending for is that it should become a policy and not an exceptional instance to buy the squares necessary and then utilize temporarily such available office space as may be found available on the land.

Respectfully submitted:

Charles Moore

Benjamin W. Morris

Ferruccio Vitale

Ezra Winter

John W. Cross

Adolph A. Weinman

John L. Mauran

C O P Y

November 12, 1930.

Dear Colonel Mortimer:

When the members of the Commission of Fine Arts were going through Arlington House last week they were much gratified at the progress that you have made in the restoration of the house and they noted the satisfaction with which the visitors viewed the work. They also were interested in General Horton's loan of furniture, which gives great elegance and dignity to the house. The members were glad to see that the walk around the Sheridan had been taken away and they expressed the strong desire to have the chains and posts around both the Sheridan and the Porter monuments removed, so as to restore that slope as nearly as possible to the old conditions. They thought that there might be quite a little planting about the Sheridan and the Wright monuments to relieve the harshness of the transition from the granite to the green grass. They noted too the excellent effects of ivy planted about the base of monuments in all the cemetery and they hoped that you would encourage others to make similar use of ivy.

The one thing that disturbed the members very much was the arrangements for throwing a flood light on the house at night. The present rage for flood lighting has taken away seriously from the dominations of the Capitol Dome and the Washington Monument. The Commission feel very strongly that night lighting should be confined to those two objects and they deprecate the tendency throughout the city to commercialize the night by lighting tops of buildings and by flourishing electric signs, which destroy the serenity of Washington. As to the Arlington House, the Commission feel that the mystery of the night is to be preferred to any artificial lighting, and this feeling is emphasized by the fact that the two great columns on Columbia Island, as planned, will carry lights.

With congratulations on your work, I am,

Very sincerely yours,

(Signed) Charles Moore,

Chairman.

Colonel C. G. Mortimer,
Quartermaster Supply Officer,
War Department,
Washington, D. C.

EXHIBIT N

C O P Y

November 14, 1930.

Dear General Eash:

I am in receipt today of a letter in regard to the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier from Mr. Vitale, a copy of which is inclosed. Both Mr. Platt and Mr. Vitale are masters in landscape design, and their opinion should be decisive. This is especially so when it proposes a very simple and natural treatment and one which in the climate of Washington is in the highest degree desirable, also it seems natural to keep in grass a space which only the public on foot use.

I thank you for having lent to me the blueprint of the approaches to the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier, which I am returning.

Sincerely yours,

(Signed) Charles Moore,

Chairman.

Brigadier General L. V. Eash, Chief,
Construction Division,
Office of the Quartermaster General,
Washington, D. C.

EXHIBIT M - 1

FERRUCCIO VITALE

101 PARK AVENUE, NEW YORK CITY

ASHLAND 8440

FERRUCCIO VITALE, F.A.S.L.A.
FRED GEIFFERT, JR., F.A.S.L.A.
LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTS
L.M. WHITEHOUSE

RECEIVED
THE COMMISSION OF FINE ARTS
WASHINGTON D.C.
NOV 18 1930
NOTED

November 12th, 1930.

Mr. Charles Moore,
The Commission of Fine Arts,
Interior Department Building,
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Moore:

I went yesterday afternoon to see the drawings made by Mr. Lorimer Rich for the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier. Mr. Platt had seen them also previously and given valuable advice. I found that Mr. Rich was still determined to have the great oval plaza paved, and I insisted that all excepting a 10 ft. walk at the periphery be in grass. I also told him that, if at all compatible with the proper framing of the monument and of the portico of the Amphitheatre, he should place two elms at the center of the two end semi-circles of the plaza. Mr. Rich was afraid that visitors would not avail themselves of the walk but would go over the grass, and suggested placing two walks across the plaza in continuation of the walks of the small mall area. I think that nothing would be worse than this, as the plan would then have two 10 ft. walks leading up to a wide and open monumental staircase. It seems to me that for the few yearly functions large numbers of people will have to stand on the grass in any case

Mr. Moore - No. 2.

11/12/30.

and that for every day visitors signs can be placed to prevent them from going across the lawn, or a removable picket fence can be located on the edge of the walk.

I do hope that Mr. Rich, who is a hard, little fellow to convince, will ultimately agree to this, and I cannot conceive anything hotter, more glaring and disturbing than the huge paved plaza added as a hard, reflecting surface to the monumental staircase and the facade of the Arlington Amphitheatre.

Very sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Muccio Sal", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

FV:A

C O P Y

November 14, 1930.

Dear Mr. Weinman:

I had a long and pleasant call on Mr. Alexander Wetmore, Assistant Secretary of the Smithsonian Institution in charge of the National Museum. Mr. Wetmore is willing and anxious to cooperate with the American artists in holding an exhibition during 1932. The Committee for the artists asked for the main rotunda of the building. Mr. Wetmore fears that that cannot be granted for the reason that it is now filled with models of various kinds, mostly naval and marine, including a big model of Belleau Wood. These displays were firmly fixed before Mr. Wetmore came to his present position. He feels that the Marine Corps of the Navy and the Navy itself would effectively object to the use of the rotunda. He suggests the long well-lighted corridor extending from the B Street entrance of the building back to the auditorium and will use his best endeavors to secure subordinate rooms, on either side of this space, but cannot absolutely promise the latter. This corridor is directly underneath the National Gallery of Art, which can be rearranged to accommodate a Bicentennial Exhibition. This proposed space is connected directly with the main entrance of the building from B Street. I do not altogether despair of the big rotunda but just now it seems hopeless.

So far as the outdoor exhibition of sculpture is concerned, the National Museum is to be extended on both sides--approximately to Ninth Street on the east and to Eleventh Street on the west, but the Mall space in front of the Museum could be utilized. Also there are certain courts in the Museum Building itself that could be made available. I think, however, preferable space would be found along the Reflecting Basin between Seventeenth Street and the Lincoln Memorial.

Insofar as spaces for indoor sculpture and mural paintings are concerned, I think good arrangements can be made. There is a good deal of General Washington material in the National Gallery of Art that can be made available and this would perhaps suggest an arrangement that would allow the present day artists greater latitude in the character of their particular exhibit.

This is just a first tentative going over the matter, so as to give you the assurance of a space and cooperation on the part of the Smithsonian officials.

Cordially yours,
(Signed) Charles Moore,
Chairman.

Mr. A. A. Weinman, President,
National Sculpture Society,
Forest Hills, L. I.,
New York.

EXHIBIT O

C O P Y

November 10, 1930.

Dear Colonel Grant:

Enclosed is a copy of a letter received from Dr. E. F. Kelly, Secretary of the American Pharmaceutical Association, reporting that they are about to become owners of all the land on the north side of Upper Water Street, between Twenty-second and Twenty-third Streets, excepting Lot 800, which is adjacent to Twenty-second Street. The Commission therefore look forward to the enactment soon of H. R. 11013, introduced by Mr. Zihlman on March 21, 1930, which was on the calendar when Congress adjourned last July. This bill, as you know, authorized the "Commissioners of the District of Columbia to close streets, roads, highways, or alleys in the District of Columbia rendered useless or unnecessary".

You will note that the American Pharmaceutical Association desires to begin construction of its building in the spring of 1931. It is, therefore, hoped that the National Capital Park and Planning Commission will cooperate in this matter, so that the Pharmaceutical Association can begin their building operations next spring.

For the Commission of Fine Arts:

Very respectfully, yours,

(Signed) Charles Moore,

Chairman.

Lieut. Col. U. S. Grant 3d,

Executive and Disbursing Officer,

National Capital Park and Planning Commission

Washington, D. C.

EXHIBIT P

C O P Y

November 8, 1930.

Dear Mr. MacDonald:

The Commission of Fine Arts at their meeting on November 7, 1930, approved the preliminary design submitted by Mr. Edward W. Donn, Jr., Architect, for the terminal house of the Mount Vernon Highway at Mount Vernon. The Commission were highly pleased with the sketches, and noted they conform to the buildings at Mount Vernon in their type of architecture.

For the Commission of Fine Arts:

Very respectfully yours,

(Signed) Charles Moore,

Chairman.

Mr. Thomas H. MacDonald, Chief,
Bureau of Public Roads,
Department of Agriculture,
Washington, D. C.

EXHIBIT Q

C O P Y

November 15, 1930.

Dear Sirs:

The Commission of Fine Arts at their meeting on November 7, 1930, inspected the studies made by members of the Beaux Arts Society for the development of East Capitol Street as sites for buildings to be erected by the States of the Union--as an Avenue of the States.

Without committing the Commission to the project itself, the members expressed interest in and appreciation of the amount of thought and labor put upon the plans as presented, and the general brilliancy of the drawings.

Very respectfully yours,

(Signed) Charles Moore,

Chairman.

Beaux Arts Society,
304 East 44th Street,
New York, N. Y.

EXHIBIT R

C O P Y

November 10, 1930.

Dear Mr. Lynn:

The Commission of Fine Arts at their meeting yesterday approved in principle the plan which you submitted for the Library of Congress annex, prepared by Pierson and Wilson, Architects, and Mr. Alexander Trowbridge, Consulting Architect.

The architect members of the Commission gave the plans particular attention and made a number of suggestions to Mr. Pierson and Mr. Wilson in the interest of the design, which they said will be embodied in further studies of it.

It is understood that you desire to bring the plans to the attention of Congress early in December, and the Commission, therefore, will give the revised plans immediate attention on being received from you.

For the Commission of Fine Arts:

Very respectfully yours,
(Signed) Charles Moore,
Chairman.

Mr. David Lynn,
Architect of the Capitol,
Washington, D. C.

EXHIBIT S

C O P Y

November 12, 1930.

Dear Mr. Coletti:

It is with the greatest regret that I have to say to you that the Commission of Fine Arts do not approve of your sketch for a statue of General Ward. The members consider the work immature. They feel that you show a lack of experience in handling such a subject. Also that you have not utilized the opportunity given you to create a Revolutionary Soldier. The sketch falls below those standards set for Washington, which are now being reached by other more experienced sculptors, and it would be unfair to the city and to you to encourage you to proceed further.

The decision of the Commission was definite. It grieves me personally to have to communicate it to you. I had set my heart on carrying through this problem as planned.

Regretfully and sincerely yours,

(Signed) Charles Moore,

Chairman.

Joseph A. Coletti, Esq.,
295 Huntington Avenue,
Boston, Massachusetts.

EXHIBIT T

C O P Y

November 12, 1930.

Dear President Lowell:

I enclose a copy of a letter just written to Mr. Coletti, in regard to the General Ward Statue. The awkwardness of the expression in the letter is an indication of my chagrin over the matter. I had dreamed of a purely Harvard collaborative problem of sculptor, architect and landscape architect. The promise shown by Mr. Coletti and the high opinion expressed of his work by the Fine Arts Department made me feel confident of a highly successful result.

Many years ago I had the same sort of experience with Mr. Weinman, then just starting on his career. The result was one of the most successful standing figures in this country, that of General Macomb in Detroit. I thought this success could be repeated. Mr. Coletti had every encouragement. He had a second chance after the first rejection, but I am sure you would not wish to have Harvard represented in Washington by the kind of work shown in the sketches.

I suppose now it will be necessary to put the matter into the hands of others and perhaps have a limited competition, say of five sculptors who have shown capacity to handle such problems. I shall await your advice in the matter.

Cordially yours,
(Signed) Charles Moore.

President A. Lawrence Lowell,
Harvard University,
Cambridge, Massachusetts.

EXHIBIT T-1

C O P Y

November 12, 1930.

Dear Mr. Ward:

I enclose copies of two letters which will interest you even if they do disappoint you. Will you let me know how you feel about such a limited competition as is proposed?

Sincerely yours,

Mr. Artemas Ward, Jr.,
60 John Street,
New York, N. Y.

(Signed) Charles Moore,

Chairman.

ARTEMAS WARD, JR.

Counselor at Law
60 John Street
New York

November 13, 1930.

Dear Mr. Moore:

I have your letter of November 12th with enclosures which I have read with interest.

Of course, I feel a similar disappointment to yours because, in my various pleasant discussions of the matter with you, I had come to understand your point of view and to hope that you would again be able to put your hand on a young man of budding genius and so avoid the higher charges of well established talent.

In regard to my feeling about the proposed limited competition, so far as I see, there is little else you can do. My only fear is that, by having to depart from your original intention, you may have to pay too much to the artist and have too little left for the workmanship and material. However, I am willing to leave that entirely to your judgment and experience.

Sincerely yours,

(Signed) Artemas Ward, Jr.

Mr. Charles Moore, Chairman,
The Commission of Fine Arts,
Interior Department Building,
Washington, D. C.

EXHIBIT T-2

C O P Y

November 11, 1936.

Dear Colonel Grant:

Mr. Vitale suggested that I call your attention to the rapid deterioration that is sure to go on in the great basin of the Lower Garden of Meridian Hill Park unless that basin be supplied with water. He advises that in order to provide against expansion of the ice in winter logs or hewed timber be placed along the north and south sides of the basin. Mr. Fesslee calls attention to this in a letter addressed to you on November 7th, a copy of which he has sent to the Commission of Fine Arts. The Commission concur in the recommendation of Mr. Vitale as set forth in that letter.

Also Mr. Vitale advises that the hemlock hedge on the Upper Garden be allowed to grow to full height so as ultimately to provide niches for the statues that will come and should come as an ornament to that portion of the park.

Mr. Vitale understands that the bandstand for Meridian Hill Park has disappeared from the park plan, and that band concerts will be given from a temporary platform on or in the immediate vicinity of the Grand Terrace. The Commission of Fine Arts concur in this.

The Commission would be much pleased to have you ask for a sufficient appropriation in the estimates for 1937 so that Meridian Hill Park will be completed for the Bicentennial. For the Commission of Fine Arts:

Very respectfully yours,

Lieut. Col. T. S. Grant Jr.,
Director, Public Buildings and
Public Parks of the National Capital.

(Signed) Charles Moore
Chairman.

ENCLOSURE

RECEIVED
THE COMMISSION OF FINE ARTS
WASHINGTON D. C.
NOV
November 7, 1930.
NOTED

Col. U.S. Grant, III,
Director of Public Buildings and Public Parks,
Washington, D.C.

Dear Colonel Grant:

Mr. Vitale asked me to go with him this afternoon to Meridian Hill park, where there were several questions he wanted to talk over. He asked me to submit to you his suggestion that the boxwood planted at the entrance to the lower garden, and other box inside the garden, was giving evidence of the lack of proper care, and that right now its roots ought to have a three or four inch covering of manure.

He also examined the hornbeam, and pointed out that the ground was in very bad condition, that a number of the trees were planted with roots exposed, and that a large percentage of them had died. He said he hoped that you would seriously consider not replacing the dead specimens, but that you would replace the entire planting with holly at the earliest possible moment.

He heartily agreed with the idea of planting four low-branching lindens in the four small panels in front of the Buchanan. He pointed out that one of the four elms planted in the garden proper was of such branching that it would never make a good tree, and said that four large trees should be planted in place of these elms. He also suggested that a few more ivy plants should be placed in the panels in front of the Buchanan.

He wanted specially to call attention to the deterioration in the pool. He said that in his experience a pool suffers unless it is kept continually filled with water. Apparently many of the expansion joints in the Meridian Hill pool already need attention. Mr. Vitale suggested that during the winter water can still be kept in the pool by the simple expedient of placing a continuous line of timbers around the perimeter of the pool so that the

ice expansion will work against these timbers rather than against the pool walls. His idea was to construct a sort of log boom, secured at intervals to the piers around the pool.

While at the park we met Mr. Fraser, the former sculptor member of the Fine Arts Commission, and Mr. Herring, the sculptor who staged the exhibition in San Francisco, and who was here yesterday about the 1932 exhibition. Mr. Vitale discussed with them the unpleasant color contrast between the Buchanan memorial and the rest of the park, a subject which had been previously raised by Mr. Morris of the Commission. Mr. Fraser said that they could expect little change in appearance with the aging of the stone, and it was discussed back and forth as to whether the stone might be artificially aged by the application of coloring matter, tea, tobacco or oil. Mr. Fraser gave his opinion that the Greeks toned their work with oil. I am merely mentioning this conversation for record, sending a copy of this memorandum to Dr. Moore, as the Fine Arts Commission would naturally have to pass on the subject and might have to take it up with the donors.

Mr. Vitale incidentally raised question about the inadequacy of the evergreen material which was supposed to form a background to the exedra. He seemed to feel that larger hemlock and other material should be used.

Mr. Vitale went with me to inspect a small scale model of the top basin of the cascade at Meridian Hill Park. In general he approved the scheme of treatment, but recommended against the use of decorative shells on the lips of the basin. He suggested the use of curvilinear lines on the lip to ripple the surface of the fall. I suggested as an alternative possibility the use of these curvilinear lines only in certain sections of the basin, where the shells had been placed, so as to give variation to the fall.

Mr. Vitale further added that Mr. Bennett had met with unusual success in the working out of similar smooth sheets of water in connection with the Buckingham fountain in Chicago, and suggested that he would probably be only too glad to contribute the information which he has gained. I would think

*Edward H. Bennett, 1800 Railway Exchange, Chicago.



that a request for this information might be better received coming from your office than from mine. It need concern only the treatment of the lip of the basin which gives the interesting flow of water over the edge. We are trying to obtain a full falling sheet rather than a drip which follows back on the underside of the basin lip.

The contract calls for the construction of a full-size model in place; but the subcontractor has proposed, at his own expense and for quicker determination of fact, the construction of a $1\frac{1}{2}$ " scale model in the shop, so constructed that we can determine the flow of water, etc. It seems to me that this model will also be of value to your office in its hydraulic studies.

In this connection, I have recently constructed a fountain with a fall of water equivalent in size to the falls on the Dupont fountain. I believe that this latter fountain has given considerable trouble from the beginning in obtaining a smooth sheet from top to bottom. At present the water falls about one third of the way as a sheet, and then twists into an irregular form. By the expedient of modeling the overflow with water clay, and testing this during the modeling with a hose, I have arrived at a lip treatment which gives an unbroken sheet from top to bottom. It has occurred to me that this might be of interest to you and to Dr. Moore in connection with the Dupont, and I am sure that the owner of the fountain would be glad to have you see how it works.

Very truly yours,

Michael Serree

